

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 18-21 are pending in this application and are rejected in the final Office Action of July 11, 2006. No claim amendments are presented herein. However, a listing of the pending claims is included herein for the Examiner's convenience.

Re: Claims 1-5, 8-15 and 18-21

Claims 1-5, 8-15 and 18-21 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,844) in view of Schein et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0229215), and further in view of Ludtke (U.S. Patent No. 6,867,764). Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The references, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. It is first noted that independent claims 1, 8, 12 and 18 include:

“enabling a display on a display device, wherein the display includes ***a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time*** to which a marker can be moved” (emphasis added; see claim 1),

“enabling a display on a display device, wherein the display includes ***a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time*** to which a marker can be moved” (emphasis added; see claim 8),

“a device for enabling a display including ***a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time***” (emphasis added; see claim 12), and

“a device for enabling a display including ***a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time*** to which a marker can be moved” (emphasis added; see claim 18).

As indicated above, independent claims 1, 8, 12 and 18 each include “a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time.” None of the references, whether taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, this element of the claimed invention.

On pages 3 and 4 of the final Office Action dated July 11, 2006, the Examiner admits that Rauch et al. fails to disclose the time period encompassed by its time scroll bar 224, and relies on Schein et al. for allegedly curing this deficiency. In particular, the Examiner states:

“However, the Rausch et al. reference does not specifically disclose the time period the time scroll bar 224 encompasses, i.e., the system response to transitions between days.

Now note the Schein et al. reference that discloses an interactive computer system for providing television schedule information wherein the viewer can scroll to move forward and backward in time (Schein [0083]) and the user can use the scroll bar to transition between different times and days as illustrated in Figure 12B, illustrating a transition between days (10:00 pm and 12:00 am). Further note, the Schein reference teaches that the scroll bar is visually proportional to the total information in the program matrix 706 (Schein [0080]) and that the visually proportional scroll bar is equally applicable to timing information (Schein [0083]). ***Thus the Schein et al. reference discloses a scroll bar for scrolling through time slots within a time period comprising a plurality of days, meeting the claimed ‘times and days in the future from a current day and time to which a marker can be moved.’***” (emphasis added)

As indicated above, the Examiner relies on paragraphs [0080] and [0083] and FIG. 12B of Schein et al. for allegedly disclosing a time line having time slots for multiple times and days in the future from a current day and time. However, the cited portions of Schein et al. fail to teach or suggest this element. In particular, FIG. 12B of Schein et al. discloses a channel guide 704 having a scroll bar 720 which “may be used for large-scale movement through hundreds of channels/sources by navigating to bar 720 and then vertically moving bar 720” (see FIGS. 12A-12B, and paragraphs [0080] and [0083]). However, nowhere do Schein et al. teach or suggest that channel guide 704 includes “a time line . . . delineating times and days s [plural emphasized] **in the future from a current day and time**” as claimed. In other words, channel guide 704 shown in FIG. 12B of Schein et al. is capable of displaying program information for a time period covering portions of two days at the most (e.g., from 3:30 PM to 7:00 AM in FIG. 12B). In contrast, the claimed “time line” covers portions of at least three days (i.e., “a current day” and “days s in the future” from the “current day”). Accordingly, the proposed combination including the teachings of Schein et al. fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention.

The Ludtke reference is unable to remedy the deficiencies of the Rausch et al. and Schein et al. combination pointed out above. In particular, the Ludtke reference discloses a data entry user interface for devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs). Ludtke fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a method or apparatus “for providing an electronic program guide” including “a time line having notches representing discrete

predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time” as claimed. In view of the foregoing arguments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-15 and 18-21 under U.S.C. § 103(a).

Re: Claims 6 and 16

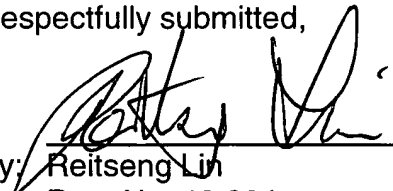
Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,844) in view of Schein et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0229215), and further in view of Schlarb et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,664,984). Applicant traverses this rejection since Schlarb et al. is also unable to remedy the deficiencies of the Rausch et al. and Schein et al. combination pointed out above. In particular, Schlarb et al. discloses a method and system for the identification of pay-per-view programming which enables users to scroll through program information in a manner similar to Rausch et al. and Schein et al. Schlarb et al. fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, “a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time” as claimed. In view of the foregoing argument and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 16 under U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks/arguments, the Applicants believe this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that

such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


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Karen Seaneuch